

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 06001 01 OF 04 101037Z

15/10

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 NIC-01 /071 W
----- 104239

P R 072234Z MAR 75 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7372
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 04 PARIS 06001

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (1ST LINE PARA 3)

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH INTERNAL POLITICAL SCENE -- FEBRUARY
1975

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 06001 01 OF 04 101037Z

REFS (ALL NOTAL): A) PARIS 5047; B) PARIS 2847;

C) PARIS 3208; D) PARIS 4257; E) PARIS 4541

SUMMARY. FEBRUARY SAW A FURTHER DEFINITION OF POLITICAL TRENDS ALREADY EVIDENT IN FRANCE OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, PARTICULARLY AN INCREASING "GISCARDIZATION" OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MAJORITY AND A CONTINUING INABILITY ON THE PART OF THE LEFT TO HALT THE COMMUNIST-SOCIALIST POLEMIC. PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING CONTINUED HIS REFORMIST ACTIVITIES, DECLARING NOTABLY (IN HIS FEBRUARY 25 "FIRESIDE CHAT") THAT "FRANCE IS HENCEFORTH GOVERNED FROM THE CENTER." SEVERAL POLLS INDICATED THAT THE FRENCH PUBLIC FELT MORE AND MORE AT EASE WITH GISCARD, HIS GOVERNMENT AND THE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN GENERAL. NEVERTHELESS, CERTAIN SIGNS OF RESURGENT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MALAISE -- IN THE ARMY, AGRICULTURAL, FISHING AND AUTOMOTIVE SECTORS -- WILL BEAR CLOSE WATCHING IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. END SUMMARY.

1. FEBRUARY IN FRANCE PROVED TO BE A MONTH OF PULSE- AND POLL-TAKING. THE OUTCOME OF MOST OF THIS AUTO-EXAMINATION COULD NOT HAVE DISPLEASED PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING. AN IFOP POLL PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 21 SHOWED THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL POPULARITY UP FROM 52 PERCENT IN JANUARY TO A RECORD 56 PERCENT. ON FEBRUARY 27' SOFRES ANNOUNCED THAT 43 PERCENT OF FRENCHMEN (AS AGAINST 40 PERCENT IN JANUARY) FELT THEY BELONGED TO THE MAJORITY, WHILE A FEBRUARY J99 SOFRES POLL SHOWED THAT MITTERRAND'S POPULARITY HAD DROPPED 8 PERCENT.

2. REFORM AND INNOVATIONS CONTINUE: GISCARD MAINTAINED THE MOOD OF LIBERAL REFORM DURING FEBRUARY. HE AGAIN HELD A CABINET MEETING OUTSIDE PARIS, THIS TIME IN THE CONCRETE DESERT OF EVRY, A "NEW TOWN" SOUTH OF PARIS. GISCARD AND MADAME GISCARD DINED AT THE HOME OF A LONG-DISTANCE TRUCK DRIVER AND HIS WIFE IN THE PARIS SUBURBS; GISCARD DROVE HIS OWN GREEN PEUGEOT 504. GISCARD ALSO CONDUCTED A SURPRISE VISIT TO MARSEILLE, OSTENSIBLY TO DISCUSS IMMIGRANT WORKERS' PROBLEMS, AND WAS GREETED WITH NOTABLE WARMTH AND DEFERENCE BY MARSEILLE MAYOR AND LONG-TIME SOCIALIST POWER GASTON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PARIS 06001 01 OF 04 101037Z

DEFFERRE. UNQUESTIONABLY, GISCARD THEREBY SCORED A NEAT POINT IN HIS CONTINUING LOW-KEY OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE LEFT. HIS MEETING WITH DEFFERRE REPRESENTS THE FIRST PUBLIC DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SOCIALIST OPPOSITION, AND BOTH PARTIES WERE ROUNDLY CRITICIZED BY THE PCF. FINALLY, ON THE CULINARY FRONT GISCARD HOSTED AN ELYSEE DINNER FOR FRANCE'S GREAT CHEFS AT WHICH THE RENOWNED PAUL BOCUSE WAS AWARDED THE

LEGION OF HONOR.

3. MORE FIRESIDE CHATS: CLEARLY, THE FRENCH ARE GRADUALLY COMING TO ACCEPT SUCH UNACCUSTOMED FAMILIARITY ON THE PART OF THEIR PRESIDENT. FRENCHMEN ARE ALSO GROWING ACCUSTOMED TO GISCARD'S "FIRESIDE CHATS", THE FOURTH OF WHICH TOOK PLACE ON FEBRUARY 25TH (REF A). A CERTAIN SAMENESS IS BECOMING EVIDENT IN THESE CHATS. GISCARD ONCE AGAIN EXPLAINED TO FRENCHMEN WHY THEY ARE RELATIVELY BETTER OFF THAN MOST OF THE REST OF THE WORLD, THIS TIME CITING INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS IN THE US FOR COMPARISON. HIS DIDACTIC APPROACH INCLUDED WRITING FRENCH ECONOMIC FIGURES ON A BLACKBOARD. GISCARD PEGGED THE EXPECTED GROWTH RATE FOR 1975 AT 3 PERCENT, NOTING THAT THIS WAS HIGHER THAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 06001 02 OF 04 072254Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 NIC-01 /071 W

----- 077726

P R 072234Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7373

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 04 PARIS 06001

FOR ANY OTHER MAJOR INDUSTRIAL NATION. CONCRETE INNOVATIONS WERE LIMITED TO RELATIVELY INNOCUOUS WELFARE MEASURES FOR FARMERS, PENSIONERS AND FAMILIES. IF A RECENT "PARIS-MATCH" REPORT IS CORRECT, GISCARD WILL BE INCREASING THE NUMBER OF FIRESIDE CHATS IN FUTURE, HAVING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 06001 02 OF 04 072254Z

DECIDED THAT REPORTERS' QUESTIONS AT "CLASSIC" PRESS CONFERENCES ARE NOT PERTINENT ENOUGH. THE NEXT SUCH CHAT, SCHEDULED FOR MARCH, WILL BE DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO DEFENSE MATTERS.

4. GISCARD'S MAJORITY: WITHIN THE PRESIDENTIAL MAJORITY, THE TWO MAIN COMPONENTS -- THE IR AND UDR -- SPENT THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY DECLARING THEIR WHOLEHEARTED DEVOTION TO GISCARD AND THEIR "EMULATIVE" RELATIONSHIP TO EACH OTHER. A FEBRUARY 24 IFOP POLL ON VOTERS' INTENTIONS REVEALED THAT 19 PERCENT OF VOTERS POLLED WOULD VOTE IR AND 19 PERCENT UDR -- THE FIRST TIME THE GISCARDIANS HAD EVER PULLED EVEN WITH CHIRAC'S PARTY ON THIS CRUCIAL QUESTION. ALTHOUGH IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY HOW THIS WOULD TRANSLATE INTO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEATS (IN THE MARCH 1973 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS THE IR POLLED 7.8 PERCENT OF THE VOTE AND WON 54 SEATS), IT DOES INDICATE THAT THE IR HAS BENEFITED FROM ITS REORGANIZATION UNDER PONIATOWSKI (REF B), WHILE THE CHIRAC-LED UDR STILL SUFFERS FROM ITS DEPENDENCY ON A NON-GAULLIST PRESIDENT.

5. THE UDR: AT THE SAME TIME, CHIRAC CONTINUED TO ASSERT HIS AUTHORITY WITHIN THE UDR; ON FEBRUARY 24TH, HE WAS REELECTED PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL, RUNNING UNOPPOSED AT THE UDR NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING AND RECEIVING 847 OF 915 VOTES CAST. CHIRAC LEFT NO DOUBT ABOUT HIS LOYALTY TO GISCARD, IMMEDIATELY DECLARING THAT HE AND THE UDR WOULD REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THE PRESIDENT "BY FIDELITY TO

GAULLISM." A SHORT TIME BEFORE, CHABAN-DELMAS, THE LAST OPENLY HOSTILE GAULLIST "BARON", HAD DECLARED HIMSELF HENCEFORTH NOTHING MORE THAN A SIMPLE UDR MILITANT "IN RESERVE FOR THE REPUBLIC." NO ONE, IN THE UDR OR OUT, SEEMED TO TAKE MUCH NOTICE. AT THE END OF THE MONTH, AN INTEROPINION POLL PUBLISHED BY "VALEURS ACTUELLES" SHOWED THAT 58 PERCENT OF THOSE ASKED FOUND CHIRAC TO POSSESS THE QUALITIES OF A STATESMAN, WHILE ONLY 25 PERCENT DISAGREED AND 17 PERCENT HAD NO OPINION.

6. THE CENTER: THE CENTRISTS CONTINUE TO RESEMBLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PARIS 06001 02 OF 04 072254Z

HESITANT LOVERS; AT ANY GIVEN TIME IT IS DIFFICULT TO TELL WHO IS HOLDING HANDS WITH WHOM. THE ORGANIZERS OF THE NEW CENTER-LEFT FORMATION "MOUVEMENT GAUCHE-REFORMATRICE" ARE PREPAIRING FOR THEIR FIRST PARIS CONGRESS MARCH 8-9; MEANWHILE, A NUMBER OF CENTRIST LEADERS, INCLUDING JEAN LECANUET AND PIERRE ABELIN, HAVE CRITICIZED THE NEW MOVEMENT AS DIVIDING THE REFORMER FAMILY (THE LEFT REFORMERS HOPE TO ATTRACT NEW LEADERS AND ENERGY TO THE CENTER, WHILE PERMITTING ADHERENTS TO RETAIN THEIR INDIVIDUAL PARTY TIES). LECANUET, MEANWHILE, HAS CALLED FOR A REINVIGORATED, FEDERATED REFORM MOVEMENT; HE APPARENTLY IS TRYING TO ATTRACT THE SMALL CDP AND MDSF PARTIES INTO CLOSER ASSOCIATION WITH HIS CENTER DEMOCRATS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ATTEMPTING TO COUNTER LEFT REFORMER CRITICISM OF HIS EGOISTIC LEADERSHIP.

7. CENTER DEMOCRAT AND INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN ATTEMPTS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 06001 03 OF 04 072259Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 NIC-01 /071 W

----- 077800

P R 072234Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7374

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 03 OF 04 PARIS 06001

TO FORGE "PRIVILEGED TIES" TOOK A SMALL STEP FORWARD,
AS PARIS LEADERS OF BOTH PARTIES JOINED
FEBRUARY 27 IN A NEW ASSOCIATION, "PARIS AVENIR"; THIS
COALITION OF PARIS DEPUTIES, MUNICIPAL COUNCILORS,
AND OTHER PARIS OFFICIALS WILL WORK TOGETHER TO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 06001 03 OF 04 072259Z

IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE CAPITAL AND TO
REFORM ITS GOVERNING INSTITUTIONS. MANY CENTRISTS WILL
BE WATCHING THIS NEW FORMATION, WHICH COULD BE A MODEL
FOR FUTURE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS AT THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL.
FINALLY, JEAN-JACQUES SERVAN-SCHREIBER, OFTEN POLITI-
CALLY DOWN BUT RARELY OUT, IS REMAINING QUIET AFTER
THE SETBACK DURING JANUARY'S RADICAL PARTY CONGRESS
(THE CONGRESS REFUSED TO ALTER PARTY STATUTES SO
THAT JSS COULD SUCCEED HIMSELF AS PARTY PRESIDENT AT
THE EXPIRATION OF HIS PRESENT TERM NEXT FALL). IT IS

SAID THAT JJSS IS ATTEMPTING TO EXPAND HIS INFLUENCE IN THE PRESS BY BUYING A MAJOR SHARE OF LE FIGARO. JJSS HAS DENIED IT, BUT THE RUMORS PERSIST.

8. THE LEFT: FEBRUARY WAS A MONTH OF RENEWED ACTIVITY WITHIN THE UNITED LEFT AS BOTH OF THE MAJOR PARTIES TOOK ON LONG-PLANNED PROJECTS. FOR THE SOCIALISTS (PS), THE LAST WEEKEND IN FEBRUARY MARKED A MOVE INTO NEW QUARTERS AS THE PS TOOK OVER THE FORMER GAULLIST HEADQUARTERS JUST ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. THE COMMUNISTS (PCF) KICKED OFF A SERIES OF YOUTH CAMPAIGNS DESIGNED TO CULMINATE IN A GIANT YOUTH/STUDENT FESTIVAL MARCH 15-16. SINCE EARLY FEBRUARY, A PCF MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN OPERATING, WITH MIXED RESULTS, IN PARIS AND FOUR OTHER CITIES AS THE PCF ATTEMPTS TO RECONQUER TERRAIN WHICH IT FEELS IT HAS LOST, IF TEMPORARILY, TO THE PS.

9.- PCF ATTACKS ON THE PS, WHICH HAD REACHED EXTREME RHETORICAL PROPORTIONS AROUND THE TIME OF THE PS CONGRESS AT PAU (REF C), EASED UP AFTER MID-FEBRUARY. BUT THE CHANGE WAS RELATIVE; EVEN A SUPPOSED "MODERATE" LIKE PCF SECRETARY-GENERAL MARCHAIS, CONVALESCING FROM A JANUARY HEART ATTACK, FELT IMPELLED TO MAKE A PERSONAL ATTACK ON FRANCOIS MITTERRAND. MARCHAIS ACCUSED MITTERRAND OF BEING "DOMINEERING AND SURE OF HIMSELF" -- DELIBERATELY CHOOSING THE SAME WORDS USED BY DE GAULLE IN A MUCH-CRITICIZED 1967 DESCRIPTION OF THE ISRAELIS.

10. FEBRUARY ENDED ON A LESS DISCORDANT NOTE FOR THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PARIS 06001 03 OF 04 072259Z

UNITED LEFT AS ITS LIAISON COMMITTEE, MEETING FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE LAST JUNE, ANNOUNCED A JOINT LIST OF DEMANDS -- AGREED TO BY ALL THREE MEMBER PARTIES. THESE DEMANDS WILL BE PUBLICIZED BY MASS JOINT MEETINGS OF THE PARTIES IN 100 FRENCH CITIES AND JOINT PRESS CONFERENCES IN ALL 95 PREFECTORAL SEATS. THEY INCLUDE CALLS FOR A SELECTIVE PRICE FREEZE, GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION OF PLANT COMMITTEES' RIGHTS TO BLOCK MASS LAY-OFFS, AND ADOPTION OF THE PCF PROPOSAL FOR A CEILING ON CONSUMER PRICES FOR ENERGY RESOURCES. THE PCF/PS/LEFT RADICAL COMMON DEMANDS REPRESENT THE FIRST COLLECTIVE ACTION ON THE UNITED LEFT SINCE LAST MAY'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. FOR THE PS, ACCEPTANCE OF THE JOINT ACTION PROGRAM MEANS AN ACQUIESCENCE, ALTHOUGH DISGUISED, IN THE LONGSTANDING PCF PROPOSALS FOR JOINT MEETINGS -- WHICH SOME PS OFFICIALS HAVE FEARED COULD PROVIDE YET ANOTHER FORUM FOR ATTACKS ON SOCIALIST

MUNICIPAL STEWARDSHIP. THE PS IS CONFIDENT, HOWEVER,
THAT IT CAN TURN THESE MEETINGS TO ITS ADVANTAGE.

11. SAUVAGNARGUES AND FOURCADE MOVE UP: OF PROTOCOLARY
INTEREST IS THE FACT THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES
AND FINANCE MINISTER FOURCADE HAVE EACH MOVED UP A
NOTCH IN THE CABINET PECKING ORDER FOLLOWING THE
APPOINTMENT OF YVON BOURGES AS THE NEW DEFENSE MINISTER.
(BOURGES IS NOW THE JUNIOR OF THE FIVE "PRINCIPAL"
MINISTERS.) THE RANK ORDER OF MAJOR FIGURES WITHIN
THE GOVERNMENT IS THUS: PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC; INTERIOR
MINISTER/MINISTER OF STATE PONIATOWSKI; JUSTICE MINISTER
LECANUET; FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES; ECONOMY
AND FINANCE MINISTER FOURCADE AND DEFENSE MINISTER
BOURGES. QUESTIONED ABOUT THIS CHANGE' THE ELYSEE SAID
IT WAS BASED ON DATE OF ENTRY INTO THE CABINET AND
HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE
PORTFOLIOS.

12. STUDIES FOR REFORM: TWO GOVERNMENT STUDIES
RELEASED IN FEBRUARY MAY WELL HAVE FUTURE REPERCUSSIONS.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 06001 04 OF 04 072303Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 NIC-01 /071 W
----- 077936

P R 072234Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7375

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 04 OF 04 PARIS 06001

A FIVE-MONTH GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED LABOR-MANAGEMENT STUDY GROUP, CHAIRED BY PIERRE SUDREAU' DEPUTY/MAYOR OF BLOIS AND FORMER MINISTER AND PREFECT, RELEASED A 206-PAGE REPORT RECOMMENDING WIDE BUT UNEVEN REFORMS IN INDUSTRY (REF D). IN PARTICULAR, THE SUDREAU REPORT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 06001 04 OF 04 072303Z

CALLS FOR "CO-SURVEILLANCE", I.E., THE PARTICIPATION OF WORKERS ON COMPANIES' BOARDS OF DIRECTORS. WHILE IT IS EASY TO DISMISS THE REPORT'S FINDINGS AS TIMID OR NOTHING NEW -- AS THE LEFT HAS DONE -- EVENTUAL ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSALS WOULD IN FACT REPRESENT CONSIDERABLE REFORM. AFTER A PERIOD OF NATIONAL DEBATE LASTING ABOUT TWO MONTHS, PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING WILL CALL A RESTRICTED CABINET SESSION TO DETERMINE WHICH PROPOSALS TO SUBMIT TO PARLIAMENT.

13. THE SECOND, 147-PAGE STUDY, BY EDUCATION MINISTER RENE HABY, PROPOSES MAJOR CHANGES IN FRENCH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION. HABY DECLARES THAT HIS BASIC INTENTION IS TO AVOID STUDENT FAILURES AND REPEATED GRADES. THUS, IF THE REFORM IS ADOPTED, FRENCH SCHOOLS WILL PAY MORE HEED TO STUDENTS' MENTAL AGE AND VARYING LEARNING ABILITIES AND LESS TO THE PRESENT RIGID SYSTEM OF EVALUATION. THE REFORMS MAY REACH PARLIAMENT IN THE FORM OF A BILL AS EARLY AS APRIL AND HAVE ALREADY SPARKED CONSIDERABLE DEBATE WITHIN THE EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT.

14. IN HIS LAST FIRESIDE CHAT, GISCARD SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE SUDREAU AND HABY INITIATIVES, PLUS THE PENDING BILL ON DIVORCE BY MUTUAL CONSENT, AS INDICATIVE OF THE PROGRESSIVE BENT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO

PURSUE. MOREOVER, HE ENCOURAGED THE WIDEST POSSIBLE PUBLIC DEBATE ON SUCH ISSUES. SUCH AN OPENLY-EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR DEBATE ON GISCARD'S PART REPRESENTS AN IMAGINATIVE EFFORT TO CHANNEL AND DISCIPLINE THE CHARACTERISTIC FRENCH TENDENCY TO REACT VOCALLY AND AT GREAT LENGTH TO ANYTHING UNFAMILIAR.

15. GISCARD MUST HOPE THAT OTHER PROBLEMS FACING FRANCE CAN BE DEALT WITH IN A SIMILAR MANNER. AMONG THESE, POTENTIALLY ONE OF THE MOST EXPLOSIVE IS THE CONTINUING MALAISE IN THE MILITARY, ESPECIALLY AMONG DRAFTEES WHOSE PROTECTOR THE PC NOW CLAIMS TO BE. LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS, FISHERMEN AND TRUCKERS ARE UNHAPPY WITH FALLING PROFITS; DISGRUNTLED FISHERMEN HAVE BEEN BLOCKING COASTAL PORTS' STREETS WITH TONS OF FRESHLY-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PARIS 06001 04 OF 04 072303Z

CAUGHT FISH. TRUCKERS IN RECENT DAYS HAVE BEEN PERIODICALLY CUTTING OFF THE MAIN PARIS-LILLE HIGHWAY WITH THEIR RIGS. THE SITUATION AT RENAULT'S /ILLANCOURT PLANT REMAINS UNSTABLE (REF E). MOREOVER, ON FEBRUARY 26, THE DAY FOLLOWING GISCARD'S UPBEAT FIRESIDE CHAT, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED A 1.1 PERCENT RISE IN RETAIL COST OF LIVING FOR JANUARY; IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER OR NOT FEBRUARY WILL SHOW A NOTABLE DROP IN THIS STATISTIC, BUT IF NOT, GISCARD MAY FIND PRICES A DIFFICULT ISSUE TO SIDESTEP AGAIN.

16. WITHAL, ONE WOULD BE HARD PUT TO CONTRADICT GISCARD'S BASIC ASSESSMENT THAT "THINGS COULD BE WORSE." THE PRESIDENT CONTINUES TO RADIATE CONFIDENCE AND TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE HOLDS THE CARDS. AT THE END OF THE MONTH, HE EVEN RECEIVED A TRIBUTE FROM SAVILE ROW WHICH MUST HAVE DELIGHTED HIM: A GROUP OF MEN'S CLOTHING STYLISTS AND MANUFACTURERS NAMED HIM "THE MOST ELEGANT MAN IN THE WORLD".
RUSH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS06001
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750083-0148
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750372/aaaacmot.tel
Line Count: 534
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 10
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 (ALL NOTA PARIS 5047, 75 PARIS 2847
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <16 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH INTERNAL POLITICAL SCENE -- FEBRUARY 1975
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, FR, (GISCARD D'ESTAING, VALERY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006